

Pell programs, made student loans more affordable, jump-started the auto industry with the Cash for Clunkers program, and provided health coverage to 32 million previously uninsured.

The truth of the matter: President Obama and the Congressional Democrats continue to move in the right direction. I ask my colleagues, where would we be right now if we were still stuck with the same Republican policies of the past?

#### AMERICA SPEAKS OUT

(Mr. ROONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, across this country and certainly throughout Florida, people have been asking and speaking out, but leaders in Washington have not been listening. From the new health care law to a national energy tax, Americans have repeatedly said “no” to what this Congress has had to offer.

I have been listening, and I’ve heard loud and clear that my constituents, like most Americans, are tired of new taxes, new spending, and record-breaking deficits. That’s why the House Republicans have launched AmericaSpeakingOut.com, a new forum where people across the country can share and discuss their ideas on a wide range of critical issues.

We plan to offer a new set of policy solutions grounded in the principles of smaller, more accountable government, and we want to engage the American people directly in building those solutions together from the start. Changing course in Washington will require Americans to speak out and Congress to start listening.

Please visit AmericaSpeakingOut.com and start speaking out.

#### 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1935

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Social Security benefits make a significant contribution to the well-being of many Americans. Today, 83,545 persons in the Seventh District of Illinois rely upon these payments to sustain their monthly living expenses. Fifty-nine percent of them are elderly, and 11 percent are children. These persons receive an average monthly benefit of \$996 a month, with the cost of living for rent and utilities in Illinois being \$957 per month, equating to 96 percent of their Social Security income.

While we celebrate Social Security for the last 75 years for the American aged, disabled, and survivor populations and their children, I encourage my colleagues to make sure that these funds are sustained without further impact on the economic well-being of our

most challenged populations. Thank you, Social Security.

#### HONORING ATF SPECIAL AGENT WILLIAM G. CLARK

(Mr. LEE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LEE of New York. Mr. Speaker, on Monday I introduced a resolution honoring ATF Special Agent William G. Clark of Rochester, New York.

One morning in 2008, while stationed in the United States Virgin Islands, Special Agent Clark witnessed a domestic dispute between his neighbor and her boyfriend, who was drunk and on drugs. His neighbor was being threatened and pleaded for his assistance. And Special Agent Clark did what his training taught him to do: he helped someone in need.

While attempting to protect his female neighbor from being beaten, Special Agent Clark was charged by her boyfriend, who was swinging a large metal flashlight after threatening to retrieve a gun. Special Agent Clark fired in self-defense. The man subsequently died from his injuries, and Special Agent Clark is now being charged with second-degree murder.

A Justice Department incident review panel has cleared Special Agent Clark, who remains on active duty. The panel unanimously found that Special Agent Clark was acting within the scope of employment and authority, and that there was no evidence of misconduct or inappropriate action on the part of Special Agent Clark.

ATF Special Agent William G. Clark is a hero who was protecting a battered woman, and Congress should recognize his heroic acts.

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#### CELEBRATING SOCIAL SECURITY'S 75TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. NEAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to join all of you in wishing Social Security a happy 75th birthday.

Social Security and Medicare are two of the most successful legislative accomplishments in the history of the world. But not everyone in this body is celebrating Social Security's overwhelming success.

There are many in this body on the other side who would like to privatize Social Security. Remember the Bush plan—to tie Social Security to the fluctuation of the stock market. This is a gamble we should not take.

It is an extraordinary American success story. For those who are simultaneously trying to educate college-aged children and the thought of caring for elderly parents, let me give you the actuarial reality. It's impossible. Simply put, the reason that Mom and Dad are

not living in your attic is because of Social Security and Medicare. It is the greatest achievement in legislative history domestically for all American families.

Happy birthday, Social Security.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DOYLE). Members are reminded not to traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.

#### CELEBRATING THE 2010 SPECIAL OLYMPICS NATIONAL GAMES

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on a happier note, this weekend I had the great honor of participating in the 2010 Special Olympics National Games opening ceremony in my hometown of Lincoln, Nebraska.

The pomp and pageantry of the official ceremony appropriately welcomed a very enthusiastic and excited audience of more than 3,000 athletes, 1,000 coaches, and 13,000 fans gathered at the University of Nebraska. As I marched in with Nebraska's delegation to the Games, I was struck by how inspiring the moment was as the community boisterously and loudly gathered to celebrate these very special athletes.

The Special Olympics have grown tremendously both in the number of participants but also in the heart of our Nation. The Special Olympics oath is, “Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”

Mr. Speaker, to all of these brave and special athletes in Lincoln's 2010 Special Olympics National Games, I wish to extend a heartfelt congratulations.

#### PASS THE EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

(Ms. SPEIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Currier and his family are my constituents, and they're suffering needlessly because Republicans are shamelessly blocking the extension of unemployment insurance. The Republicans argue that people like Thomas are lazy and would rather collect unemployment than work. Well, let me tell you about Thomas Currier.

He's 62. He's worked his entire life and at one time even owned his own business. After 25 years in the IT field, he was laid off in August of 2008, and last month he finally lost his unemployment insurance. His wife needs surgery they can't afford. His daughter dropped out of college because they can't pay her tuition. Not only has Mr. Currier lost his income, but as a result